

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities

Vision: All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing members of their communities.

Purpose:

The Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities is a 23-member volunteer board, created by federal and state law and appointed by the Governor, whose purpose is to advocate for Idahoans with developmental disabilities to assure that they have access to needed community supports, individualized services and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion in Idaho communities. The Council advocates with and on behalf of Idahoans with developmental disabilities by listening to their concerns and working to help them improve their lives by building service systems and natural supports that enable them to live lives of independence, responsibility, meaning and contribution.

2012-2016 Strategic Plan:

OUTCOME STATEMENT

All Idahoans work together to build a shared vision of community inclusion where...

...the public knows about the value and strengths of people with developmental disabilities,

...people with developmental disabilities are able to get the services and supports they need,

... people with developmental disabilities and their families are able to get easy-to-understand information, and

... leaders with developmental disabilities are supported to grow.

2012-2016 Strategic Plan Goals and Objectives:

Goal 1 - Service System Improvement:

The Council will work with partners on at least two (2) systems change initiatives and provide information, education, and skill building activities each year so that Idahoans with developmental disabilities will have increased opportunities for inclusive education and employment, improved access to individualized services, and quality support in their communities.

Objective 1.1 ~~Increase the number of students with developmental disabilities who are included in regular classrooms and school activities by working with partners to support, enhance and document best practice in inclusive education in at least three (3) schools by September 2016.~~

Proposed Change **Create more opportunities for students with developmental disabilities to be included in regular classrooms and school activities by increasing awareness and implementation of evidence-based practices for inclusion through training and the development of resources by September 2016.**

Objective 1.2 Create more opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to have jobs in the community that are integrated, inclusive, and pay more than minimum wage by working with partners on a statewide employment first project that includes educating communities, training staff, and writing at least one state policy by September 2016 to improve services that support fully integrated, competitive employment.

Objective 1.3 Work with others to support Disability Mentoring Day activities in at least three (3) communities each year to help youth find out about jobs in their communities.

Objective 1.4 Increase the quality of support staff by providing or supporting training that builds the skills and knowledge of up to 200 direct support staff each year.

Objective 1.5 Work with partners on service system changes to improve access to individualized developmental disability services in Idaho communities.

- Objective 1.6 To help fill the gaps in traditional developmental disability services, do research to learn ways to increase natural supports in Idaho communities and provide a report with recommendations by year five (5) of the plan.

Goal 2 - Leadership Development:

The Council supports a statewide self-advocacy organization and leadership training for individuals with developmental disabilities and family members so they can participate fully in advocacy coalitions to be a strong voice for local and state systems change.

- Objective 2.1 Provide money each year to support one (1) statewide self-advocacy organization led by people with developmental disabilities.
- Objective 2.2 Work with people with developmental disabilities and other partners to host at least one (1) statewide self-advocacy conference by September 2016 where self advocates provide leadership training to individuals with developmental disabilities who may become leaders.
- Objective 2.3 Each year, support self-advocate leaders to provide and/or receive leadership development training.
- Objective 2.4 Provide or support at least one (1) leadership development program for parents and family members of people with developmental disabilities by September 2016.
- Objective 2.5 Create and support a grassroots, diverse coalition in at least one (1) community by September 2016 that includes local people with developmental disabilities and other community members that can be copied in other parts of the state.
- Objective 2.6 Ensure that Council members get the support and training they need to fulfill their responsibilities under the law, are provided easy to understand information, and participate in a Council self-assessment each year.

Goal 3 – Information, Outreach, and Inclusion:

Increase public access to information and improve awareness so that communities are welcoming and inclusive and community members report they have more understanding of the strengths and abilities of people with developmental disabilities.

Objective 3.1 Promote inclusion by including people with developmental disabilities in at least two (2) non-disability community programs, organizations, activities or media campaigns each year.

Objective 3.2 Provide easy-to-understand information about Idaho’s developmental disability service systems through printed materials, social media, and a Council website that is updated at least every three (3) months.

Goal 4 – Policy Involvement:

Advance the interests of people with developmental disabilities in public policy decisions through Council involvement in coalitions, initiatives, and training.

Objective 4.1 Keep the Council involved in work on policy issues by participating in meetings of the Consortium of Idahoans with Disabilities and other groups.

Objective 4.2 Work with partners to support annual Disability Advocacy Day activities and legislative training for individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, and guardians.

Objective 4.3 Support Council members to identify emerging policy issues and develop a yearly policy agenda by providing easy-to-understand policy information.

Objective 4.4 Support Council members to develop relationships with legislators and other policymakers each year.